Note :- The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary *vide* number S.O.844(E), dated the 19th November, 1986; and subsequently amended *vide* numbers S.O.433(E), dated the 18th April, 1987; GSR. 176 (E), dated the 2nd April 1996; and were recently amended *vide* numbers G.S.R.97(E), dated the 18th February, 2009; G.S.R.149(E), dated the 4th March, 2009; G.S.R.512(E), dated the 9th July, 2009; G.S.R.543(E), dated the 22nd July, 2009; G.S.R.595(E), dated the 21st August, 2009; and G.S.R.794(E), dated the 4th November, 2009.

Vulture deaths

1881. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether malaria is a major cause for vulture deaths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the projects taken up, so far, to stop such vulture deaths; and

(d) the funds allocated and spent during the last five years especially for Andhra Pradesh forest areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per information available, malaria is not the cause of mass mortality of vultures in India. The main cause of mortality of Gyps species of vultures in India and south Asia is the veterinary drug called diclofenac sodium, a non-steroidal pain-killer given to cattle. If cattle die after being injected with this drug due to disease or old age and vultures feed on such a carcass, they die of kidney failure.

There has been mass decline in the Gyps vulture population all over the country in nineties. However, State-wise details of vulture mortality have not been collated at Central level.

(c) The Ministry has supported vulture conservation breeding centres at Pinjore (Haryana), Buxa (West Bengal) and Rani Reserve Forests (Assam) through the respective State Governments. Funds have also been provided to Bombay Natural History Society for advocacy work under the project "Monitoring and Use of Veterinary Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs and Painkillers and their Distribution around Selected Vulture Sites".

(d) The details of funds released to different States including Andhra Pradesh for vulture conservation during the last five years are as follows:

Sl. No.	State	Amount (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	41.00
3.	Orissa	41.00

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	53.30
5.	Jharkhand	41.00
6.	Haryana	38.00
7.	Punjab	16.00

Emission reduction commitment

1882. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how his Ministry justifies its offer for submitting an annual report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change giving details of the country's greenhouse gas emissions and the steps taken to reduce it;

(b) whether this would not be a deviation from India's stand that domestic measures to counter climatic change will not be subject to international verification;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a shift in Government's policy; and

(d) the countries that are now submitting their annual report to UNFCCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) India is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As per Article 12 of the UNFCCC, all Parties of UNFCCC are expected to communicate elements of information relating to national inventory of GHG emissions and general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Parties to implement the convention in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of Parties (COP). India has submitted its initial National Communication (NATCOM) to the UNFCCC in the year 2004 and is currently engaged in the preparation of second NATCOM to UNFCCC.

(b) and (c) India has taken a consistent stand in the international negotiations that mitigation actions of developing countries will be subject to international verification only to the extent that these are supported by international finance and technology.

(d) National Communications are submitted by Parties according to periodicity prescribed by the Conference of Parties through relevant COP Decisions. Annex I Parties submit NATCOM every 4 years and national inventories of GHG emission every 2 years. The non Annex I Parties submit NATCOM in accordance with the decisions of COP and there is no defined periodicity for submission of NATCOM.